



Editorial Communications Canada Limited

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Trainees for YMCA Careers
Vote to Serve Overseas

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SEPTEMBER 12, 1966, ST. ADOLPHE de HOWARD, QUE. - - Thirty-three university undergraduates Saturday wound up a week-long orientation program at Camp Oteroke by unanimously endorsing plans to include a tour of overseas duty as part of their preparations for careers with the YMCA.

Most gruelling - - and one of the most rewarding - - portions of the week was a three-day series of almost non-stop study and discussion sessions. Students, all between 17 and 30 years of age and working towards Arts degrees, paused only for meals, an occasional coffee break and, infrequently, to sleep.

Major objectives of this marathon program were to widen and improve lines of communications between participants, to promote satisfying and effective interpersonal relationships, to develop skills of decision-making and problem solving in groups, to impart a greater insight into helping groups function effectively, and to provide a thorough and sound orientation for sensitivity training.

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The students agreed that, in line with the outward looking program of Canadian YMCAs, a supervised tour of service as a volunteer in other countries would provide a desirable growth experience.

"The focus would be somewhat different from that of organizations such as CUSO or the Peace Corps," says R.G. Rogers, assistant general secretary of the YMCA of Montreal and one of the program's staff advisors.

"As much emphasis would be placed on supervision and training as on service," he explains.